



—PRESS PHOTOS BY PAUL KONECNY.

VISIT TO A STRANGE LAND—State University at Binghamton student Angel Saint Nunez shepherds a group of youngsters from Bedford-Stuyvesant across the SUAB campus this morning after breakfast at the dining hall.

Slum Children Find SUAB Sojourn a True 'Shangri-la'

By BILL DOWD

If the 15 Bedford-Stuyvesant youngsters plucked from their environment for a two-week vacation on the State University at Binghamton campus were asked to write an essay on their hiatus, they might be tempted to borrow the title of Gore Vidal's play, "Visit to a Small Planet."

Of course, these kids probably never heard of Gore Vidal. They also never heard an offer to hike in the woods, look for fossils, go bicycling, see a movie or eat as much as they want.

They come from a poverty pocket of New York City where it's everyday practice to dodge the drunks, pushers and con men on the way home through garbage-littered streets.

Angel Saint Nunez, a SUAB student whose home is Bedford-Stuyvesant, decided to give the youngsters—ranging in age from 9 to 14—a chance to see what things are like on the other side of the looking glass.

Working for the last few months to raise \$1,500 from service clubs and individuals

to pay for meals, movies and other expenses, Mr. Saint Nunez selected 15 youngsters from a list of 60 that he had drawn up.

At 5 p.m. yesterday, a five-car caravan chauffeured by Triple Cities area residents who volunteered free and anonymous transportation pulled into the SUAB campus and deposited 15 screaming, jumping kids.

They are quartered in Delaware Hall, a dormitory in the Newing College portion of the university.

"The kids were unbelievable

on the trip and when they got here," said Mr. Saint Nunez. "They told me they know this is where the elite, the very rich, live and go to school.

"They invaded the student center like a plague of locusts," he said with a mock shudder. "When they spotted the bowling alleys it took a lot to pull them away. They were so overwhelmed by everything that they didn't know what to do first."

All activities have been put on Mr. Saint Nunez' master schedule—breakfast at 8, hiking at 9, lunch at 11:30, baseball at 1, swimming at 4 and so on. He has four counselors—two SUAB undergraduates, one graduate student and one Bedford-Stuyvesant resident—to help ride herd on the energetic kids.

In the daytime everything is fine. At night old fears rise up.

"They each have their own bed and own room, but last night they got scared and wanted to sleep together the way they're used to doing," said Mr. Saint Nunez. "I let them, but tonight it's going to break up. I want them to get to know different things."

The woods near Delaware Hall hold mysteries that the youngsters are constantly exploring—except at dusk when they insist the place is loaded with ghosts and other unnamed terrors.

"Look at these fossils," cried one 12-year-old excitedly. "You can see FISH in them! I've got a whole bunch I'm taking home with me."

"Can you imagine that?" asked Mr. Saint Nunez. "You try to show kids something like that in school and they don't want to hear about it. Now they're all grabbing rocks, fossils, acorns . . . anything they can get."

"We never saw a place like this," another youngster chimed in.

"Man, there's even a tree house up there in the forest."

Attention shifted briefly to a bee hive one of the others discovered.

Cycling on the few bikes discarded after the regular school year by students gave reason for many arguments.

So badly did the youngsters want to ride that one pair hit on an ingenious plan for making use of a chainless bike



BETTER THAN A CLASSROOM—These youngsters from New York's Bedford-Stuyvesant found that collecting fossilized rocks on the SUAB campus on their own was more interesting than hearing about them in school.

OFB Hoping To Get New Head by Fall

Here's a Chance To Be in Census

Have you been counted?

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Opportunities for Broome, Inc., the county's antipoverty agency, hopes to have a new executive director at work sometime in September, according to the Rev. William I. Gracey, president of the board of directors.

Mr. Gracey said interviews of five candidates are being conducted and a presentation from the board's personnel committee is expected by August at the latest.

The agency has had two interim executive directors since the board last spring fired Edward D. Behrs, who had run OFB since mid-1965.

Mr. Gracey said efforts by the personnel committee and a Chicago placement firm have screened dozens of applications for the \$15,000-a-year position down to the current five.

None of the five are from the Broome County area, he added.

Joseph Chanecka, director of OFB's manpower program, is the current interim director. He was named to the post after James W. Compton, executive director of the Broome County Urban League, filled in for four weeks.

Here's a Chance To Be in Census

Have you been counted?

The Broome County Chamber of Commerce, in an effort to determine whether the accuracy of the 1970 census in the Broome County Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area is open to question, is conducting a survey to see how many families were missed.

Sections of Johnson City were missed, according to Mayor James W. McCabe, and reports of families also missed in other parts of the county have been received by various officials.

In the form below, anyone who did not have his census form collected may indicate this, according to Dr. Charles N. Aswad, the chamber's president.

To the best of my knowledge I have not been counted as a resident of the Broome County Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area in the 1970 census.

NAME _____ TEL. _____

ADDRESS _____

Please fill out and mail to one of the following two addresses as soon as possible:

Broome County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
P. O. Box 995
Binghamton, N. Y. 13902

Broome County Planning Dept.
Courthouse
Binghamton, N. Y. 13901

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Cycling on the few bikes discarded after the regular school year by students gave reason for many arguments.

So badly did the youngsters want to ride that one pair hit on an ingenious plan for making use of a chainless bike. One pumped the pedals, even though the action did nothing but give him a feeling of accomplishment, while the other pushed from behind—uphill.

Some of the old city habits crop up—taking an extra apple or container of yogurt back to the dorm after breakfast to be secreted away; older kids asserting their strength when it came time to use the bikes; puffing a crumpled cigaret before anyone could ask for it.

"I've got at least two more years of school here," said Mr. Saint Nunez, "and I'd like to make this an annual thing. I had to turn parents away who asked if I could take their kids out of the city."

"At first I wanted to rush through school in a couple of years and get back to work with the kids. Now I can see you can get things done within the system."

Italians to Picket NBC

NEW YORK (AP) — The Italian-American Civil Rights League said today that it will picket the National Broadcasting Co. offices this evening to protest the showing of a program entitled "Trial of the Mafioso" Sunday night.